

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 FBO-02 A-01 CU-02 PC-01

AID-05 SY-04 OPR-01 NIC-01 OMB-01 SCCT-01 /068 W

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O R 041235Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 469

INFO AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMCONSUL UDORN

7RRFS RAMASUN STATION

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 2002

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARK,TH

SUBJ: RAMASUN GATE INCIDENT SITREP

REF: (A) UDORN 33 (B) BANGKOK 18847

BEGIN SUMMARY. FOLLOWING ISSUANCE OF WRITTEN APOLOGY
OVER RAMASUN GATE INCIDENT BY US CONSUL UDORN, MORNING OF
FEBRUARY 3, DEMONSTRATIONS WHICH WERE PLANNED AT RAMASUN
STATION FOR SAME DAY FAILED TO
MATERIALIZE. IN LATE AFTERNOON AND EARLY EVENING OF
FEB 3, HOWEVER, APPROXIMATELY 200 PEOPLE, MOSTLY STUDENTS
AND SAMLOR DRIVERS, DEMONSTRATED AT CONSULATE IN UDORN.
DURING DEMONSTRATION ROCKS WERE THROWN BREAKING SEVERAL
CONSULATE WINDOWS. DEMONSTRATORS PRESENTED DEMANDS,
INCLUDING DEMAND THAT CONSUL REPEAT TO CROWD EXPRESSION
OF REGRET HE HAD ISSUED EARLIER IN DAY. URGED BY POLICE
OFFICIALS ON HAND, WHO FEARED VIOLENCE, HE DID SO AND
CROWD DISPERSED. SITUATION IN UDORN IS NOW QUIET, BUT
COULD FLARE UP AGAIN IF INTEREST IS SHOWN BY BANGKOK
BASED STUDENTS OR OTHER DISSIDENT GROUPS. END SUMMARY.
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1. AT BASE COMMUNITY RELATIONS MEETING HELD MORNING OF FEBRUARY 3 (REF A) IT WAS DECIDED THAT A LETTER OUTLINING CORRECTIVE ACTIONS TAKEN AT RAMASUN IN WAKE OF INCIDENT BE SENT BY CONSUL TO GOVERNOR. ACTIONS INCLUDED MAKING FOUR SERVICEMEN AVAILABLE TO THAI POLICE, ISSUANCE OF INSTRUCTIONS TO RAMASUN SECURITY PERSONNEL CLARIFYING THAT ONLY THAI POLICE HAVE JURISDICTION OVER THAI PEOPLE, AND THE AGREEMENT TO PLAYING OF BOTH THAI AND AMERICAN NATIONAL ANTHEMS DURING THE DAILY FLAG LOWERING CEREMONY AT RAMASUN.

2. LETTER AND COPY OF APOLOGY STATEMENT WERE READ TO THE GOVERNOR AT APPROXIMATELY FOUR P.M AFTERNOON OF FEBRUARY 3. GOVERNOR SAID THIS SEEMED SUFFICIENT TO ANSWER ALL QUERIES, AND GAVE DEPUTY DISTRICT POLICE CHIEF TASK OF TALKING TO DEMONSTRATORS SHOULD THIS BECOME NECESSARY. (IT DID, BUT HE DIDN'T.)

3. BY 1715 EVENING OF FEBRUARY 3 DEMONSTRATORS HAD BEGN ARRIVING AT CONSULATE UDORN (SEVERAL HUNDRED ULTIMATELY CAME) AFTER RALLY AT DOWNTOWN FAIRGROUNDS. THEY QUICKLY CHOSE A GROUP OF ABOUT EIGHT REPRESENTATIVES CONSISTING OF STUDENTS AND SAMLOR DRIVERS TO TALK WITH CONSUL IN HIS OFFICE. DELEGATION HAD TWO DEMANDS.

(A) THE FOUR US MILITARY POLICEMEN MUST BE SURRENDERED TO THE THAI, TRIED UNDER THAI LAW, AND PUNISHED BY THAI LAW IN THAILAND.

(B) OFFICIAL APOLOGY MUST BE MADE BY US GOVERNMENT OR US AMBASSADOR, TO BE DISSEMINATED NATIONWIDE IN THE NEWSPAPERS, ON TV AND ON RADIO, AND DISTRIBUTED BY LEAFLT TO ALL 1.6 MILLION INHABITANTS OF UDORN PROVICE. (WE HAVE SINCE LEARNED THAT THIS DEMAND WASDROPPED.)

4. FINAL DEMAND WAS FOR CONSUL TO MEET WITH THE CROWD AND APOLOGIZE FOR THE GATE INCIDENT. CONSUL EXPLAINED IMPROPRIETY OF THIS DEMAND, BUT AFTER LENGTHY DISCUSSION DURING WHICH CROWD HURLED SEVERAL ROCKS AT THE CONSULATE BREAKING WINDOWS, AND POLICE OFFICIALS INDICATED A VERBAL APOLOGY MIGHT BE CRUCIAL TO PREVENT FURTHER

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VIOLENCE, APOLOGY WAS MADE. FOLLOWING APOLOGY DEMONSTRATORS BEGAN TO DISPERSE AND BY APPROXIMATELY 1915 MOST HAD LEFT THE AREA.

5. SHORTLY THEREAFTER MORE POLICE OFFICIALS AS WELL AS PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR CAME TO CONSULATE TO APOLOGIZE FOR EXCESSES OF DEMONSTRATORS AS WELL AS THEIR OWN INABILITY TO CONTROL THE SITUATION.

6. ON FEBRUARY 4 REPRESENTATIVES OF UDORN TEACHERS COLLEGE STUDENT COUNCIL APPEARED AT BOTH RAMASUN STATION AND CONSULATE AND APOLOGIZED FOR PREVIOUS EVENING'S ACOSVITIES. THEY STATED THAT VERY FEW STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN DEMONSTRATIONS AND CLAIMED THAT MOST OF PARTICIPANTS WERE SAMLOR DRIVERS. THEY ALSO STATED THAT THE DEMAND FOR AN APOLOGY FROM THE EMBASSY, BROADCAST NATIONWIDE, HAD BEEN DROPPED.

7. THINGS ARE QUIET IN UDORN NOW, BUT WE MAY NOT BE OUT OF THE WOODS YET. THE FOUR SERVICEMEN, TWO OF WHOM HAVE ALREADY BEEN ARRESTED (AND RELEASED IN US CUSTODY) ON CHARGES OF ASSAULT AND DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY, HAVE DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITYSTATUS AND THIS COULD BE AN EXPLOSIVE ISSUE. IT WILL BE SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE WE LEARN WHETHER BANGKOK BASED GROUPS WILL TAKE UP THE CUDGELS.

8. REMARKABLY THERE HAS BEEN NO DISCUSSION OF THE MISSION OF RAMASUN STATION IN THE NEWSPAPER STORIES THAT HAVE APPEARED THUS FAR, BUT THIS QUESTION SEEMS CERTAIN TO ARISE ONCE THE INITIAL EXCITEMENT BEGINS TO SUBSIDE, PARTICULARLY IF IT BECOMES KNOWN THAT THE ACCUSED M.P.S HAVE DIMPLOMATIC IMMUNITY.

9. ACTION REQUESTED: IT IS DISTURBING THAT, DESPITE PLEAS FROM HERE (REF B PLUS PREVIOUS AND SUBSEQUENT APPEALS IN MILITARY CHANNELS) WASHINGTON CLEARANCE OF RAMASUN (AS WELL AS OTHER INSTALLATIONS) REVISED UNCLASSIFIED MISSION STATEMENTS HAS STILL NOT BEEN FORTHCOMING. WE NEED THIS CLEARANCE WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY.

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